

## GUERNSEY FIRMS AMONG WINNERS AT STEP PRIVATE CLIENT AWARDS

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[Nerine Group](#) was among the big winners at the [Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners \(STEP\)](#) Private Client Awards 2014/15.

The Guernsey-headquartered business was named independent trust company of the year - the first time the category had been introduced at the awards. Established in Guernsey in 1997 with 10 staff, Nerine now employs just fewer than 100 staff and has additional offices in the BVI, Dubai, Geneva, Hong Kong and Delhi. The group is the only independent trust company with an office in India.

Other businesses with a Guernsey presence that won at the awards were [Appleby](#), which was named international legal team of the year, [KPMG's](#) private client advisory firm, which was accountancy team of the year, and [RBC Wealth Management](#), which was named trust company of the year.

Nerine Group Executive Chairman Keith Corbin said he believed the company stood out from the nominees because Nerine could clearly demonstrate innovation, expertise across a range of trust disciplines and held relationships with clients and intermediaries across generations - some spanning more than 30 years.

"To be recognised by leaders in the international private client world is high praise indeed and the introduction of a specific independent trust company award is encouraging. We are uncompromisingly independent. At the core is our abiding adherence to our duties as fiduciaries; our only goal is to provide the right solution for each client in the right jurisdiction employing the highest levels of expertise and experience. This award recognises our depth of knowledge and, more importantly, our focus on our clients and the hard work and dedication of our teams across the globe," said Mr Corbin.

Appleby Guernsey Managing Partner Gavin Ferguson, said: "Attaining this type of recognition for the work that our private client and trusts team does is excellent and real testament to their hard work and commitment to delivering market-leading advice and services to our clients. It is also a public demonstration of our leading reputation for being a go-to adviser in the private client sector."

The STEP Private Client Awards were presented at a dinner at the London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel on 17 September, hosted this year by comedian Hugh Dennis. The event supported the International Senior Lawyers Project for the first time, raising in excess of £80,000 for the charity, which offers pro bono assistance by highly experienced lawyers to support the efforts of under-resourced governments, non-governmental organisations and advocates in developing countries to advance fundamental rights, lift their nations out of poverty and establish the rule of law.

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